



United States Senator

**MARY L. LANDRIEU**  
*Louisiana*

News Release

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## **SEN. LANDRIEU SECURES HOUMA FUNDING**

*Projects in Houma and surrounding area to  
receive \$6.3 million.*

WASHINGTON – Sen. Mary L. Landrieu, D-La., announced today that \$6.276 million in funding for Houma and the surrounding area in the Agriculture Appropriations bill that passed the Senate Appropriations Committee this afternoon.

“The Louisiana projects included in the Senate bill will help our research institutes and wildlife agencies better support the agriculture community,” said Sen. Landrieu, a member of the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee. “Louisiana’s farmers face several challenges today, including increasing budget deficits and continued trade talks that, if successful, would have a crippling effect to Louisiana’s agriculture community.

“When we passed the Farm Bill in 2002, we gave critical support to our farmers and rural communities that are facing growing hardships in this increasingly complex and competitive global market,” said Sen. Landrieu said. “While the President’s budget made swiping cuts to an industry that is much in need, the Senate bill is a start at restoring those funds.”

The \$16.8 billion Agriculture Appropriations bill funds the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. The Senate bill funds 13 Louisiana projects, 5 of which will aid the Houma area.

“I will continue to fight for Louisiana’s funding as we move to the full Committee vote and through conference,” said Sen. Landrieu.

Some of the projects in the Houma area in the Agriculture Appropriations bill include:

- more -

- **\$4,000,000 for the Houma Agriculture Research Service (ARS) Sugarcane Research Lab**  
This funding will provide construction to improve existing laboratory facility at the ARS Sugarcane Research Lab farm near Houma.
- **\$1,495,000 for the Houma ARS Funding**  
This funding will help continue existing research for sugarcane breeding, germplasm enhancement, crop protection and green cane harvesting.
- **\$563,000 for the Wetland Plants Special Research Grant**  
This funding will help with addressing the problem of coastal erosion in Louisiana and will require the development of a system for utilizing native vegetation to protect and restore eroding wetlands.
- **\$118,000 for the Blackbird Control Efforts in Louisiana**  
This funding will help the depredation of rice in Louisiana by implementing the responsible control of blackbird population.
- **\$100,000 for the Epidemiological Research on Infectious Diseases on Louisiana Alligator Farm**  
This funding will help the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries with research and administration of the Louisiana wild alligator population and ecosystem.